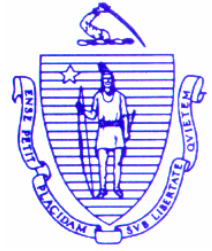




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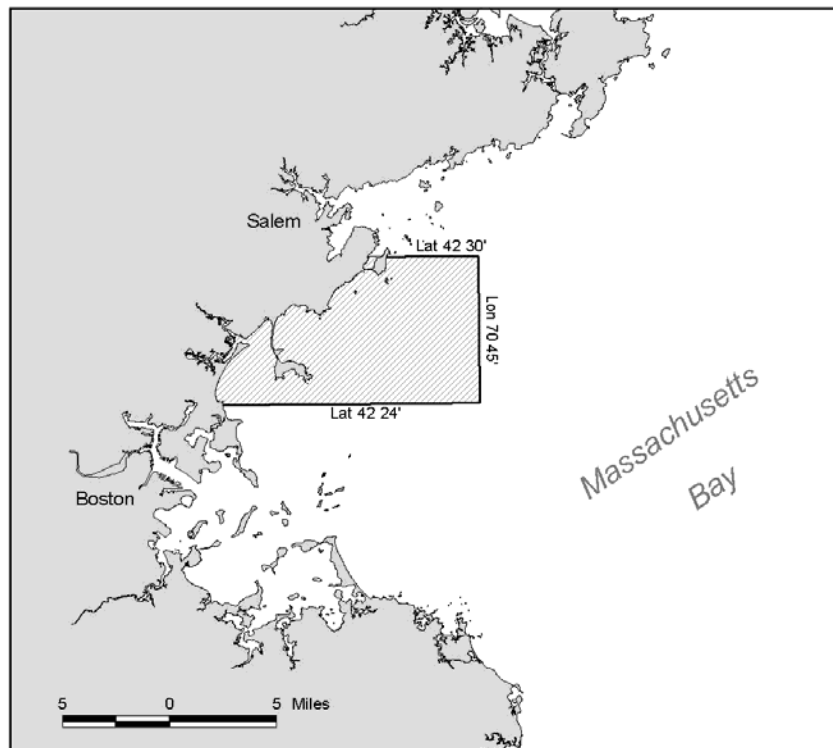
**December 19, 2003**  
**Marine Fisheries Advisory**

## **PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER NEW REGULATIONS FOR REOPENING OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY CLOSED AREA TO GILLNET FISHING**

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On December 16, 2003, the Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) closed an area north of Boston adjacent to Nahant within a few miles from shore to all gillnet fishing (see map below). This action was prompted by concerns that the local abundance of cod combined with low trip limits (commercial trip limit = 500 lbs/day; recreational bag limit = 5 fish/angler) was resulting in unprecedented regulatory discards.

While this action will remain in effect until March 31, 2004, *Marine Fisheries* will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2004 to discuss prospects for reopening the area. Such a reopening would require consideration of new regulations. *Marine Fisheries* has asked the Northeast Seafood Coalition to assist in coordinating this meeting. Anyone with interest in fishing this area should plan on attending. The meeting will be held at the Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station (30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester) at 3PM.



This area extends from the shoreline eastward and is west of the 70° 45' longitude, south of 42° 30' latitude, and north of 42° 24' latitude.

For further information please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).